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Approved For Release 2000/08/27 : CIA-RDP75-00662R000300040011-6
Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
25X1A9aTO : CIA/ORE [REDACTED]
FROM : DRN [REDACTED] 25X1A9a

DATE: July 15, 1952

SUBJECT: DRN Capabilities in Economic Intelligence

The following informal remarks are prepared in response to your telephone inquiry of July 14. As you realize, I'm sure, these are quite off-the-cuff reactions to meet quick needs of the moment.

1. There are gross deficiencies in our economic knowledge of almost all countries in the Near East, South Asia, and Africa, partly because reporting has been incomplete and even more because the basic information simply does not exist.

2. We have generally been able to meet requirements for specific or particularistic studies and did a rather notable job in support of the TCA program in South Asia when that program was getting under way (we turned out a total of over 100 briefing papers of one sort or another over the past year).

3. We have been much less successful in preparing broader studies and estimates. Here the problem is not so much lack of material as it is the lack of trained personnel capable of sophisticated economic analysis. The appropriate personnel is lacking because of (a) the shortage of funds, (b) the difficulty of recruiting the personnel required. Persons who are both professionally trained economists and area specialists in our regions are extremely scarce and are difficult to entice into government employ. At the present time we do not have a single economist in DRN who is both a trained economist and an experienced expert in the area.

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